

St. Matthew and Intel Spark Manufacturing Interest Among the Littlest Students

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) has quickly moved to the forefront of curricula and lesson plans across the country. At St. Matthew Catholic School, the staff has also embraced this movement, and is focused on preparing their students for the disciplines and job markets of the future. To that end, St. Matthew has partnered with Intel to bring STEM workshops to the school.

Last month, St. Matthew first and second grade students were introduced to the basic parts of a business supply chain. In this program, which is facilitated by Intel employees, volunteers lead classroom activities involving all aspects of the supply chain, including sourcing, making, delivering, reusing and recycling. In these group activities, students also learn about BOMs (Bills of Materials), simulate a supply chain with Legos, and create a final product: a Lego car.

The students are divided into two groups to manufacture the cars, and are tasked with sourcing and supplying materials, followed by the manufacture of the car. The final step is to deliver the car to the customer, simulating a complete supply chain. Although a typical supply chain begins with the regulation of natural resources and obtaining raw materials, it also includes several production links before finally reaching the customer.

The children enjoyed taking on these roles, and learned about the import jobs of suppliers, service providers and logistics personnel; as well as the relationship between consumer supply and demand. More Intel workshops of this kind are being planned for St. Matthew students, and can be modified for implementation at any grade level.



St. Matthew has implemented a variety of STEM-focused enrichment activities and events that support the school's STEM efforts, including an electronics recycling drive, First Lego League Lego Robotics, Math and Architectural/Design Expos, Regional Science Fair, and Science Bowl teams. To learn more about St. Matthew's STEM curriculum and upcoming activities and events, contact us at info@stmatthewhillsboro.org or visit our Web site at www.stmatthewschoolhillsboro.org.

